

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Missouri Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021, 9:00 am
GoToMeeting Conference Call

Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Carl Johnson	Leavenworth, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2023	Yes
John Bishop	Atchison, KS	Recreation	2023	Yes
Neil Coufal	Troy, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Stephen Glaser	Atchison, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Jeffrey Grossenbacher	Bern, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Chris Griffin (Chair)	Troy, KS	WRAPs	2021	Yes
Lisa Montgomery	Reserve, KS	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in KS & NE	2023	Yes
Joel Mahnken (VC)	Leavenworth, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Brett Neibling	Highland, KS	Agriculture 2	2023	Yes
Mike Stec	Atchison, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Luke Terry	Robinson, KS	Fish and Wildlife	2021	No
Michelle Wirth	Kansas City, KS	Public Water Supply 3	2021	Yes
Vacant		Agriculture Industry	2021	No

Others in attendance:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Geoff Bohling	KGS	Lauren Koons	KWO
Sara Maguire	KWO	Taylor Harman	KCC
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO		

- I) **Welcome/Introduction:** Chris started the meeting at 9:02 am and Tj ran through the people listed on the GoTo meeting screen.
- II) **Review of the December 17th KWA Meeting:** This portion was skipped, however, the December 17th meeting dealt with the annual report to the Legislators, which is available [here](#).
- a. **A message from KWO Director Connie Owen:** "To all Missouri RAC members:
 Good morning! I hope you and your loved ones are all well. I wanted to express my admiration and gratitude for your involvement in the Missouri RAC. I applaud your efforts to ensure a safe and reliable groundwater supply in your region of the state. You each bring valuable knowledge and expertise needed to address this tremendous challenge. The Kansas Water Office and Kansas Water Authority rely on your input; in my roles as KWA Chair and now as Director of the Kansas Water Office, I can assure you that we could not do our work without you. I regret that I cannot join your meeting today; I plan to do so in the near future. Again, thank you so much for your service on the Missouri RAC. --- Connie Owen"

III) RAC Business:

- a. Carl's questions about KWO/KWA changes and my role/responsibility: I explained that Connie is now the Director and Cara the Assistance Director at the KWO. Dawn Buehler, previous Kansas RAC Chair, has been appointed KWA Chair and her hearing in front of the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee can be found [here](#). As far as my roles and responsibilities, I will continue to serve as the Missouri RAC's Planner with my other duties remaining similar. I will supervise some other individuals and my role as an ex officio member to the KACEE Board has been passed to Angela Anderson, who is now the Lead for Education and Outreach. There was discussion of the House Water Committee and Chris asked if the [link](#) could be sent out to the group. The House Water Committee is a two-year committee: gathering information this year and looking at possibly restructuring issues their second year.
- b. **Minutes from the December 3rd meeting notes: Lisa offered a correction for her category, Tj will correct and get notes posted.**
- c. **Missouri River Subcommittee:** Michelle mentioned that the Adaptive Management Plan and the USACE Workplan has been released but that she hasn't gone through it yet. She also stated that the MRRIC group will continue to meet virtually through this fall. There was also some discussion about another Proof of Concept (POC) that is being planned to move water from the Missouri River to western Kansas and possibly Colorado or Texas. Michelle asked where this was at and if Tj could find out and if there was a public comment period.
- d. **Ag Subcommittee:** Jeff mentioned there were a lot of water issues up in the air right now: Wichita ASR, Hays Water Transfer, and Rattle Snake Creek issue. He mentioned that a deal had been struck with those involved with the Rattle Snake Creek water impairment issue and then the Audubon files suit stopping what was thought to be a workable solution. Brett mentioned there has been a problem moving grain in this region with just rail and trucks. There is an effort by multiple individuals and Bill Becker, Transport 360, to get more grain moved by barge through St. Joe, White Cloud, or Atchison.
- e. **The Education Subcommittee:** John stated that they had nothing, however, Tj added a comment from John, who had put a couple individuals together to work on an education project in Topeka.

- ### IV) Groundwater Project Update – KGS:
- Geoff Bohling led this discussion and his PowerPoint is available [here](#). He said they had experienced some setbacks with COVID but have been able to get out in the field lately. The goals of the study are to establish a groundwater monitoring system that will help provide improved safe yield estimates. KGS has two wells fitted with continuous level monitoring and has manual and chemical measurements on other wells. He stated that barometric pressure has a big influence on some wells. Geoff showed that some of the wells in Nemaha County have Nitrate levels multiple times more than the MCL of 10 mg/L. Jeff questioned this, adding those shallow wells have traditionally had higher levels of nitrates and those drilled to 80-100' having much better water quality. Geoff agreed that the deeper wells provide better water. He also mentioned that Hiawatha put in a Nitrate removal plant in 2018 to combat the nitrates. If you look at the project [website](#) you can see the real-time measurements from the two wells. Carl asked how

many more wells they expect to install and Geoff thought around 4 more wells. Michelle asked about the contract and Tj mentioned it was for 5-years and the funding is secured through KWO's Assessment and Evaluation funding line.

- V) **Budget Information-KWO:** Tj led this discussion with a [memo](#) he had just received this morning, explaining where the State Water Plan (SWP) Budget is at. The third column is the Governor's recommendations and the last two columns are from the House and Senate committee that heard the presentations for agencies that receive money from the SWP. The budget goes through multiple levels of approval and then negotiations between the House and Senate to finalize a budget. Following this, the Governor has the final say as to what has been proposed. There was a discussion about SWP input by the RAC and Tj mentioned that the Kansas RAC had put together a matrix to evaluate the budget for RAC input. Tj was asked to put together a working draft for the Missouri to be finalized by Michelle, John, and Chris. This will be discussed at the April meeting.
- VI) **Regional Section of the State Water Plan-KWO:** Tj led this discussion while showing a draft of the Neosho Regional section. The Neosho section was developed by multiple people to be a template for the other Regions. The SWP is supposed to be updated every 5 years, however, we are working on the 2009 plan right now, which is nearly 400 pages. We want this to be concise, informational, and include the recent updated RAC Goals. Carl mentioned this is a powerful document used by other agencies. There will be a draft Missouri Regional section presented at the next RAC meeting for comment.
- VII) **Review of the State Water Plan Guiding Principles:** This discussion was led by Tj with the five draft principles located [here](#). These have all been presented to the KWA and are still in draft form with comments still being accepted. The table on this page will be updated to reflect the new time line for completion of the SWP.
- VIII) **Other Issues or Agency Updates:** Chris mentioned that she had seen a bunch of work/clearing along Hwy. 36 and wanted to know if we could get an update from Jud Kneuvean (USACE) and Kirk Thompson (KDWPT). The DP County Annual Conservation District meeting date will be established next week. John Bishop asked if anyone was aware what the snowpack was and possibility of flooding this spring. Joel mentioned that he had been monitoring it and that it down relative to recent years. Mike said they have had several occasions where low water levels have caused problems at their Missouri intake; Joel agreed with this.
- IX) **Public Comments:** There were none.
- X) **Messages to the Kansas Water Authority:** There were none.
- XI) **Upcoming Meetings: (Still NO IN-PERSON)**
- KWA Meeting, April TBD
 - Next Missouri RAC meeting (April 22, 2021 9-11 am virtual)

- c. Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.